

EDITOR'S MISCELLANY



A WOMAN interne is to be appointed in the municipal hospital service of New York for the first time. She is Dr. Emily Dunning, a graduate of Cornell University Medical School, and is in every way an admirable choice for this rather trying position—trying because, as the first woman to fill such a post, she will be much watched and criticised. Dr. Dunning's service will begin in Gouverneur Hospital, where she will have the ambulance service. Unfriendly critics prophesy that a woman cannot cope with the "drunks" and "toughs" of an ambulance service, but we from our experience as nurses believe that a woman will have less trouble in dealing with these cases than most men have.

Even a friendly critic, a most liberal-minded man, confesses that he dislikes the thought of a woman on the ambulance. We, again, as nurses, would like to say that we have seen ill women patients packed into the ambulance with one or two half-drunken men, which we consider a much more revolting sight than a medical woman seated on the ambulance, and we believe that with her there this promiscuous packing will cease.

As for muscular strength, it is not needed. The ambulance surgeon never assists in lifting the patient or carrying the stretcher, at any rate; the friends or the hospital porters always have to do this, so that we can see no reason why a woman should not be equal to the duties of this post.

THE Civic Sanitation Association of Orange, N. J., has appointed a woman sanitary inspector. Territorially the inspection will centre in Orange, but embrace the adjacent districts of the Oranges. The work of the inspector will be, first, systematic investigation of sanitary conditions in the districts concerned, including attention to individual complaints and insistence upon effectual action by the local boards of health when injurious conditions are found to exist. Second, securing the coöperation of tenants in maintaining public health by exercising their rights as citizens to demand a proper system of public sanitation by the individual care of their own premises.

The position of the inspector is unofficial and the salary is assured by private subscription. Her office will be in some central building of Orange.

The Civic Sanitation Association is an active organization of prominent residents of the Oranges.

Miss Helen Thompson, agent of the New York Charity Organization Society, and a resident of the Friendly Aid Settlement, a graduate of Vassar of the Class of 1899, has been chosen to fill this position.

THE annual meeting of the District Nurses' Association of Middletown, Conn., was held on Tuesday, May 6. Reports were read by the secretary, treasurer, and the chairmen of the several committees.

The report of the chairman of the Nurse Committee, Mrs. E. N. Hubbard, showed how the work has grown during the past year. For the last four months, since the engagement of an assistant nurse, it has been possible to care for many more cases.

Miss Rowe spoke of the erroneous idea held by some persons that the success of district nursing would retard the establishment of a hospital. She demonstrated that, on the contrary, this work was preparing the way by making all classes realize the value of skilled nursing; also the crying need of having a place here to which severe cases could be taken, thus avoiding the necessity of the painful journey to Hartford or New Haven, so difficult sometimes for both patient and nurse.

Fourteen times during the past year, as the report shows, has this necessity occurred. The primary object of district nursing is to help those who would otherwise be entirely without relief in sickness and suffering, those who have none of the comforts and appliances which make illness endurable to the more prosperous, those who live in their pain often alone through the long days, surrounded by discomfort and neglect.

MISS VIDA GOLDSTEIN, of Australia, who has been commissioned by the government of Victoria to study American methods of dealing with dependent and delinquent children lately spent a day in the Juvenile Court of Philadelphia and another in that of Chicago. She says that while the benevolent purpose of the judge is evident, it seems to her a great mistake to bring all the children into court together, and to let the younger ones be present while the cases of boys and girls in their teens are being tried. In her opinion, the best system yet devised for dealing with young culprits is the Children's Council of South Australia. The council consists of six men and six women. It has jurisdiction over all offences of young people under eighteen, except murder or manslaughter. It meets not in a court-room but in its own office in a building devoted exclusively to children's affairs. The children are brought in one by one, and after the council has considered each case and decided what is best to be done about it, the judge makes the order in accordance with the council's advice. In South Australia women have full suffrage. Miss Goldstein says that in those parts of Australia where women do not vote the methods of dealing with child culprits are much less advanced.—*Woman's Journal*.

MUNICIPAL HOUSEKEEPING.—The Women's Sanitary Leagues and Civic Clubs established in many of our cities have organized departments on the disposal of garbage, market places, street sweeping, alleys, back yards, etc., the suppression of expectoration in public places, the water supply, children's playgrounds and open spaces—all housekeeping work pure and simple, and the natural and proper extension of the woman's work in the home.

MRS. MARY HENDERSON MITCHELL, Class of 1888, and Miss Emelie Lutz, Class of 1892, of the Illinois Training-School, represent a two-thirds interest in the Clover Club, a lunch and rest room for working-women at 261 Dearborn Street. Opened early in December, it has been a success from the beginning. Miss Elizabeth Tenny, Class of 1897, is cashier.

MISS L. L. DOCK has been appointed member of the Local School Board of one of the districts of New York City.

MISS CHARLOTTE E. HALL, of 205 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, has a full set of THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING which she is willing to sell.